

What is claimed is:

- 1           1. An electronic message delivery system
- 2     comprising:
- 3           (a) a terminal from which a user is able to browse
- 4     electronic messages, electronically sent out on a
- 5     communications network and addressed to the user;
- 6           (b) a permitted-sender list in which
- 7     permitted-sender information about a permitted sender,
- 8     whose every electronic message is permitted to be received
- 9     by the user on said terminal, is registered;
- 10          (c) sender information obtaining means for
- 11     obtaining sender information from an individual
- 12     electronic message addressed to the user;
- 13          (d) checking means for checking as to whether or
- 14     not said sender information, which has been obtained by
- 15     said sender information obtaining means, of the
- 16     last-named individual electronic message is identical
- 17     with said permitted-sender information registered in
- 18     said permitted-sender list;
- 19          (e) delivering means for delivering said last-named
- 20     electronic message, which contains said last-named
- 21     sender information registered in said permitted-sender
- 22     list, to the user if the result of the checking by said
- 23     checking means is positive;
- 24          (f) a message holder for temporarily holding every
- 25     electronic message from any sender so as to be browsed

26 by the user from said terminal;

27 (g) storing control means for storing the  
28 last-named electronic message into said message holder  
29 if the result of the checking by said checking means is  
30 negative;

31 (h) browsing control means for allowing the  
32 individual electronic messages, which have been  
33 temporarily held in said message holder, to be browsed  
34 by the user from said terminal upon a browsing request  
35 of the user from said terminal;

36 (i) link setting means for setting a link between  
37 said sender information of an individual electronic  
38 message, which has been temporarily held in said message  
39 holder, and said permitted-sender list while the user  
40 is browsing the last-named individual electronic message  
41 from said terminal; and

42 (j) registering means for registering said sender  
43 information of an electronic message in said  
44 permitted-sender list when the sender of the last-named  
45 electronic message is selected as a newly permitted sender  
46 by the user from said terminal.

1 2. An electronic message delivery system  
2 according to claim 1, further comprising notifying means  
3 for notifying the user that an electronic message has  
4 been held in said message holder, if said message holder  
5 holds the last-named electronic message therein.

1           3. An electronic message delivery system  
2 according to claim 2, wherein said notifying means  
3 performs the notification of said last-named electronic  
4 message held in said message holder, at prescribed time  
5 intervals.

1           4. An electronic message delivery system  
2 according to claim 1, wherein said electronic message  
3 is an e-mail.

1           5. An electronic message delivery system  
2 according to claim 2, wherein said electronic message  
3 is an e-mail.

1           6. An electronic message delivery system  
2 according to claim 3, wherein said electronic message  
3 is an e-mail.

1           7. An electronic message delivery system  
2 according to claim 1, wherein said electronic message  
3 is a voice mail.

1           8. An electronic message delivery system  
2 according to claim 2, wherein said electronic message  
3 is a voice mail.

1           9. An electronic message delivery system

2 according to claim 3, wherein said electronic message  
3 is a voice mail.

1 10. An electronic message delivery management  
2 server for managing the delivering of electronic messages,  
3 electronically sent out on a communications network and  
4 addressed to a user, comprising:

5 (a) a permitted-sender list in which  
6 permitted-sender information about a permitted sender,  
7 whose every electronic message is permitted to be received  
8 by the user on a terminal communicably connected to said  
9 delivery management server through the communications  
10 network, is registered;

11 (b) sender information obtaining means for  
12 obtaining sender information from an individual  
13 electronic message addressed to the user;

14 (c) checking means for checking as to whether or  
15 not said sender information, which has been obtained by  
16 said sender information obtaining means, of the  
17 last-named individual electronic message is identical  
18 with said permitted-sender information registered in  
19 said permitted-sender list;

20 (d) delivering means for delivering said last-named  
21 electronic message, which contains said last-named  
22 sender information registered in said permitted-sender  
23 list, to the user if the result of the checking by said  
24 checking means is positive;

25 (e) a message holder for temporarily holding every  
26 electronic message from any sender so as to be browsed  
27 by the user from the terminal;

28 (f) storing control means for storing the  
29 last-named electronic message into said message holder  
30 if the result of the checking by said checking means is  
31 negative;

32 (g) browsing control means for allowing the  
33 individual electronic messages, which have been  
34 temporarily held in said message holder, to be browsed  
35 by the user from the terminal upon a browsing request  
36 of the user from the terminal;

37 (h) link setting means for setting a link between  
38 said sender information of an individual electronic  
39 message, which has been temporarily held in said message  
40 holder, and said permitted-sender list while the user  
41 is browsing the last-named individual electronic message  
42 from the terminal; and

43 (i) registering means for registering said sender  
44 information of an electronic message in said  
45 permitted-sender list when the sender of the last-named  
46 electronic message is selected as a newly permitted sender  
47 by the user from the terminal.

1 11. An electronic message delivery management  
2 server according to claim 10, further comprising  
3 notifying means for notifying the user that an electronic

4 message has been held in said message holder, if said  
5 message holder holds the last-named electronic message  
6 therein.

1 12. An electronic message delivery management  
2 server according to claim 11, wherein said notifying means  
3 performs the notification of said last-named electronic  
4 message held in said message holder, at predetermined  
5 time intervals.

1 13. An electronic message delivery management  
2 server according to claim 10, wherein said electronic  
3 message is an e-mail.

1 14. An electronic message delivery management  
2 server according to claim 11, wherein said electronic  
3 message is an e-mail.

1 15. An electronic message delivery management  
2 server according to claim 12, wherein said electronic  
3 message is an e-mail.

1 16. An electronic message delivery system  
2 according to claim 10, wherein said electronic message  
3 is a voice mail.

1 17. An electronic message delivery system

2 according to claim 11, wherein said electronic message  
3 is a voice mail.

1 18. An electronic message delivery system  
2 according to claim 12, wherein said electronic message  
3 is a voice mail.

1 19. A recording medium in which an electronic  
2 message delivery management program for a computer to  
3 manage the delivering of electronic messages,  
4 electronically sent out on a communications network and  
5 addressed to a user, is recorded, wherein said program  
6 instructs the computer to function as the following:

7 (a) sender information obtaining means for  
8 obtaining sender information from an individual  
9 electronic message addressed to the user;

10 (b) checking means for checking as to whether or  
11 not said sender information, which has been obtained by  
12 said sender information obtaining means, of the  
13 last-named individual electronic message is identical  
14 with permitted-sender information registered in a  
15 permitted-sender list by the user from a terminal on the  
16 communications network, said permitted-sender  
17 information being information about a permitted sender,  
18 whose every electronic message is permitted to be received  
19 by the user on the terminal;

20 (c) delivering means for delivering said last-named

21 electronic message, which contains said last-named  
22 sender information registered in said permitted-sender  
23 list, to the user if the result of the checking by said  
24 checking means is positive;

25 (d) storing control means for temporarily storing,  
26 into a message holder, every electronic message from any  
27 sender so as to be browsed by the user from the terminal  
28 if the result of the checking by said checking means is  
29 negative;

30 (e) browsing control means for allowing the  
31 individual electronic messages, which have been  
32 temporarily held in said message holder, to be browsed  
33 by the user from the terminal upon a browsing request  
34 of the user from the terminal;

35 (f) link setting means for setting a link between  
36 said sender information of an individual electronic  
37 message, which has been temporarily held in said message  
38 holder, and said permitted-sender list while the user  
39 is browsing the last-named individual electronic message  
40 from the terminal; and

41 (g) registering means for registering said sender  
42 information of an electronic message in said  
43 permitted-sender list when the sender of the last-named  
44 electronic message is selected as a newly permitted sender  
45 by the user from the terminal.

1 20. A recording medium according to claim 19,



2 wherein said program further instructs the computer to  
3 function as notifying means for notifying the user that  
4 an electronic message has been held in said message holder,  
5 if said message holder holds the last-named electronic  
6 message therein.

1 21. A recording medium according to claim 20,  
2 wherein said program instructs the computer to function  
3 as said notifying means in such a manner that said  
4 notifying means performs the notification of said  
5 last-named electronic message held in said message holder,  
6 at predetermined time intervals.